

I am very concerned with the trend toward media consolidation and the repercussions of that trend. For example, I learned of SBG's plan to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary right before the election and this worries me because this kind of partisan power is detrimental to our democracy--and our democracy needs all the help it can get. Small changes which aggregate over time have a powerful effect, even though they may seem innocuous when viewed singly. I felt the same way when stations were told not to air the reading of names of our soldiers who had died in Iraq and Afghanistan. And I have seen how our new sources present 'news' that is homogeneous and shallow in content.

We need to be very conscientious about evaluating media ownership rules and strengthen not weaken them. The standard must be what is congruent with our nations's democratic principles--not partisan goals.

Thank you.